Socialist Worker

Abbey Films sack women cleaners in Derry

SIX WOMEN cleaners at Strand Multiplex cinema in Derry are picketing to try to save their jobs.

The women, all members of the MSF union, have been working in the cinema since before it even opened.

They've been earning £3.00 an hour. Management sacked them and brought In Grove Contract Cleaners because that will cost them less.

The usual wages for contract cleaners are £2.20 an hour.

The complex is owned by Ward Anderson, operated from Dublin by Abbey Film Distributors, Film House Upper Abbey Street.

Local management are blaming the Dublin management for the decision, while Ward Anderson are saying it's a local decision.

The women say they don't care whose decision it is, they want their jobs back. One of them told *Socialist Worker*

"We cleaned the place again and again to get rid of all the building dirt. And then last week we get these wee notes in our pay packets— *"your services are no longer required." We've been treated like dirt".*

They have mounted a good, militant picket. Takings in the cinema are way down.

Local people have joined them on the picket line and large numbers of people have refused to cross the picket and have joined the boycott of the Strand Multiplex.

Many people who had been looking forward to a night out were tempted to pass the picket line.

But after a bit of argument, most agreed that the jobs were more important and went off to do something else for the night.

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